

REMARKS

Claims 9, 12 - 13, 17, 20 - 21, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schill et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,884,357). Claims 10, 16, 18, 24 - 25, 27 - 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schill ('357) in view of Shaw et al. (U. S. Patent No. 2,615,190) and, further, in view of Egner-Walter (GB2145168). Further, claims 10, 16, 18, 24 - 25, 27 - 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schill ('357) in view of Beauschet (U.S. Patent No. 3,734,582) and further in view of Enger-Walter ('168). Claims 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schill et al. ('357). The rejection of the claims as being anticipated by Schill or being rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schill in view of other prior art is traversed.

The Examiner states that Schill shows a coaxial, cylindrical bearing in at least one of the first and second bearing points. The Examiner further states that a cylindrical bearing (commonly referred to in the art as a sleeve bearing) is one of many types of rolling-contact bearings. The Applicant's attorney disagrees. Bearing point 11 is a sleeve bearing. Schill discloses a bearing sleeve 22 inserted and held axially onto the control lever 5. As is known in the art, a sleeve bearing may also be referred to as a sacrificial bearing in which the sleeve material wears away with use. This is not a cylindrical roller bearing nor is it any type of rolling contact bearing. Further, the bearing point 11 is disclosed in Schill as a universal joint. Schill defines the universal joint as a forked pin, which features a bearing journal and two forked legs, with the bearing journal forming the first pivot axis and the second pivot axis of the universal joint taking a path through the two forked legs, at right angle to the bearing journal. (Column 2, Lines 27 - 31) The universal joint, as defined in Schill, is therefore not a cylindrical roller bearing. Bearing point 9 is also not a type of a rolling contact bearing. Bearing point 9 is a common ball and socket joint. Therefore, since Schill does not show or disclose a coaxial rolling contact bearing, there is no prima facie case of anticipation and the subject claims are distinguished from the Schill reference.

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Claims 9 - 10, 12 - 13, 16 - 18, 21, 24 - 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leroy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,683,605) in view of Shaw ('190). Claims 9 - 10, 12 - 13, 16 - 18, 20 - 21, and 24 - 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leroy ('605) in view of Beauschet ('582). Claims 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leroy ('605).

Regarding the Leroy reference, the Examiner states that Leroy teaches all of the essential elements of the claimed invention, however fails to teach that one of the bearing points is a rolling contact, deep-grooved ball bearing. The Leroy reference was previously cited by the Examiner in the Office Action dated December 17, 2002 as EP 0182123. In the responding Amendment, dated February 20, 2002, the Applicant states that the Leroy reference EP 012123 is equivalent to the U. S. Patent No. 4,683,605 ('605). The Applicant argued that Leroy discloses that the coupling rod 3 is not connected to the controlling arm 1 at the second bearing point 11. The connecting rod 3 in Leroy terminates at the pivot pin 12. A supporting rod 2 is connected to the pivot pin 12 and is also connected to the bearing 11. Bearing point 11 of Leroy is not located on a connecting rod. In the subsequent Office Action, dated April 14, 2003, the Examiner agreed with the Applicant regarding the Leroy rejection and withdrew the Leroy rejection. The Applicant is uncertain why the Examiner has reasserted the rejection based on Leroy. Figure 2 in Leroy is a side view of the five-link linkage shown in the schematic of Figure 1. In Figure 2, bearing point 111 is not located on the connecting rod 103 (as similarly shown in schematic form in Figure 1 at 11 and 3, respectively).

Regarding the Enger-Walter disclosure, claim 9 requires that inner and outer races of the bearing are axially and radially fixed to be non-rotatable with respect to the connecting rod and at least one of the control arm and driving arm along transmission of large radial and axial forces without play. Engner-Walter does not show or disclose this feature. Engner-Walter shows that there is play relative to the inner and outer races or rings and that it is essential that the rings are adjustable in relationship to each other (Column 1, Line 74 - 75), and that irregular position of the two axes of rotation of the rings is adjustable by changing the angular position of the

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connecting rod. In the previous Office Action, the Examiner has not addressed that Egner-Walter clearly discloses that the rings are adjustable by changing angular position of the connecting rod and that there is a regular position of the two axes of rotation of the rings in contrast to present claim 9 which requires that there is no play of radial and axial forces. Therefore, reconsideration of claims 9 - 13, 16 - 21 and 24 - 32 is requested.

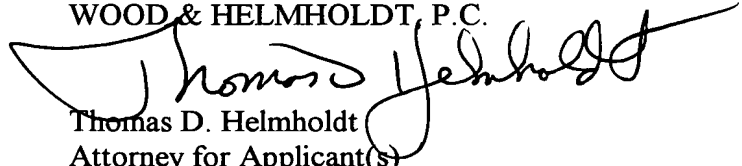
Claims 14 and 22 - 23 were objected to as being dependent upon the rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14 and 22 have been amended to place in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claims, and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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